

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02282 031405Z

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SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM'S LUSAKA PRESS CONFERENCE

LUSAKA, NOVEMBER 3, U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS DONALD EASUM ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY FOR HIS SECOND VISIT TO THIS COUNTRY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. MR. EASUM WAS IN LUSAKA TEN DAYS AGO WHEN HE ATTENDED THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION OF ZAMBIA. HE RETURNED TO THIS COUNTRY YESTERDAY AFTER VISITS TO MALAWI AND TANZANIA WHERE HE MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES. ON MONDAY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILL BE HOLDING BILATERAL TALKS WITH ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY HE WILL PRESIDE OVER A MEETING OF AMERICAN AMBASSADORS AND OTHER RANKING U.S. OFFICIALS FROM EIGHT AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WASHINGTON.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON ARRIVAL YESTERDAY AT LUSAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MR. EASUM, QUESTIONED AS TO WHY THE U.S. HAD CAST A VETO ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS, REPLIED THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE QUESTIONS OF NAMIBIA, APARTHEID AND RHODESIA CAN BE ACHIEVED BETTER BY ARGUMENT, DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION IN WORLD FORUMS RATHER THAN BY OSTRACIZING

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02282 031405Z

SOUTH AFRICA AT THIS TIME. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAID

THAT SOUTH AFRICA "MAY VERY WELL BE AT A CROSSROADS IN ITS OWN APPROACH AND THAT ENCOURAGEMENT RATHER THAN BLUDGEONING MIGHT BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY AT PRESENT."
MR. EASUM ADDED THAT THE U.S. HAS ESPOUSED THE SAME VIEWS CONCERNING DECOLONIZATION AS THOSE SET FORTH IN THE LUSAKA MAINFESTO OF 1969 AND THAT IF WAYS OF NEGOTIATION ARE OPEN "WE SHOULD CHOOSE WAYS OF PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION RATHER THAN WAYS OF VIOLENCE."

AMBASSADOR EASUM DENIED THAT THE THREE WESTERN COUNTRIES CASTING VETOES LAST WEEK HAVE RECEIVED ANY PROMISES OR ASSURANCES FROM SOUTH AFRICA THAT CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE, BUT ADDED THAT "WE BELIEVE ACTION MUST NOW REFLECT THE RHETORIC (I.E. SOUTH AFRICAN) EMITTED. THE QUESTION OF EXPULSION WILL CERTAINLY ARISE AT SOME TIME AGAIN IN THE FUTURE AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THE DEGREE TO WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAS MADE MEANINGFUL CHANGES WILL DETERMINE THE STANCES THAT VARIOUS COUNTRIES WILL TAKE ON THE EXPULSION ISSUE AT THAT TIME. I SHOULD ALSO THINK THAT IT IS JUST NOT THE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION, BUT IT IS ALSO THE DEGREE TO WHICH SOUTH AFRICA FULFILLS ITS PLEDGES TO THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH REGARD TO BRINGING NAMIBIA TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE NATURE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH RHODESIA IN THE COMING MONTHS."

MR. EASUM SAID THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT INFLUENCE RHODESIA TOWARD A CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION. THIS, HE SAID, MIGHT BE THROUGH THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES, OR BY OTHER MEANS SINCE IT IS CLEAR RHODESIA DEPENDS ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR SUPPORT, BOTH MORAL AND PHYSICAL. HE SAID RHODESIA MUST THEREFORE LOOK TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR GUIDANCE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

MR. EASUM SAID "THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR INFINITELY MORE OPTIMISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY THAN THERE WERE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WITH THE ENCOURAGING CHANGES IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THOSE IN THE FUTURE IN ANGOLA IT IS CLEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION, AND THOSE OF NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA, BECOMES QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY WERE BEFORE, AND IN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02282 031405Z

THIS ENVIRONMENT SOUTH AFRICA HAS INSTITUTED A RE-EXAMINATION OF ITS POLICIES. INDEED, THE SPEECH OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA SEVERAL DAYS AGO WOULD, I ALSO THINK, LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE THAT IN THE IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING COUNTRIES THERE IS PERHAPS MORE REASON FOR OPTIMISM THAN ONE WOULD HAVE SEEN SEVERAL YEARS AGO."

WHEN QUERIED AS TO RUMORS AND REPORTS OF THE U.S. ADOPTING

A /GO-SLOW" APPROACH TOWARD CHANGE IN ANGOLA, IN ORDER TO SUPPORT U.S. OIL COMPANY INTERESTS IN CABINDA, MR. EASUM ISSUED A FLAT DENIAL. HE SAID THE U.S. SUPPORTS RAPID AND PEACEFUL MOVEMENT TOWARD INDEPENDENCE IN ANGOLA AND THAT THE U.S. UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF ANGOLA IS DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SEVERAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THEMSELVES. WITH REGARD TO THE AMERICAN GULF OIL COMPANY, MR. EASUM SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM OFFICIALS OF THE COMPANY THAT THEY ARE COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT TO POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA AND THAT THEY ONLY WANT A STABLE GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL ALLOW THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR OPERATIONS. MR. EASUM NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN CABINDA AND ANGOLA ADDING "IF THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO THAN IT IS A DECISION WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE."

TODAY, THE SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA, UNDER BANNER HEADLINES, "SA MUST CHANGE ---TOP U.S. OFFICIAL EXPLAINS VETO MOVE", REPORTED THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF ASSISTANT EASUM IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL.
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